

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6, 8, and 9 have been amended, Claim 7 has been canceled by the present amendment, and Claims 10-17 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Motegi; and Claims 7-9 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 7. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over AAPA in view of Motegi is moot.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figure 9 has been amended to include a legend "Prior Art." Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

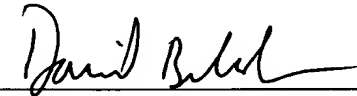
The claims have also been amended to correct minor cosmetic informalities and to better correspond with U.S. claim drafting practice.

In addition, new Claims 10-17 have been added to set forth this invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally-filed application. In particular, new Claims 10-17 are similar to Claim 1-6, 8, and 9, but have been drafted to use means-plus-function terminology. It is respectfully submitted new Claims 10-17 are allowable for similar reasons as Claims 1-6, 8, and 9.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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